Kilduff

JFK assassination records, FA request episode Harold Weisberg 3/1/79

The attached Bremer to Sullivan (FBI) 2/21/67 memo is a third-hand report of a phone conversation I had with Malcolm Kilduff, who had been a White House press secretary under JFK. This record, which bears an indexing mark, the copy from the file that cannot be read and any other copies and any record of any distribution and/or distribution copies or versions should have been provided in response to my FA requests but none was.

From what I have observed of FBI practice, and particularly considering the aggressive array of top FBI brass to whom this was marked, the information in more form would have been communicated to at least Dallas and New Orleans, neither of which offices provided any relevant record under FA.

That such inconsequential information, if true, was worth the time of so many top officials, is not easy to believe. Nor leads me to wonder if there was any other record of any kind relating to the call from the Secret Service.

All that is attributed to me is "that the New Orleans reports are true" and that I offered "Kilduff access to my own 'information along this line.'" Which report out of New Orleans? Along what line? There was no dearth of contradictory reports from New Orleans and no shortage of inconsistent lines. This kind of memo does not appear to represent the best FBI reporting and I do not see how any higher official could have known what was being talked about - if I had said that. Nor do I see how any one could have failed to make inquiry to learn what I might have said that "certainly does not say."

This also was two month prior to my first trip to New Orleans.

I had but one conversation with Kilduff that I recall. It related to the Manchester book from which the Kennedy family had not yet disassociated itself. Although Gen. J. Kennedy appears to have commissioned Manchester's work the actual purpose of my call to Kilduff was to encourage him to use any influence he had to lead to the disassociation of the President's family from the work. After I explained my reasons Kilduff was silent for a moment then told me he would go to New York in a few days, that nobody would know where he would be staying, and how I could reach him. My response was that I had no purpose other than the one I had accomplished, of giving him the Manchester information, and would have no need to get in touch with him. (When Pierre Salinger wrote an intro. to Charles Roberts propaganda Salinger was hardly the one to phone.)

Possibly Kilduff asked me something about New Orleans but I had no Garrison pipeline. Without doubt I offered him access to other information, related to the Manchester book, on which I had done much research and was to do more. So, I'm surprised that nothing about the actual conversation or its purpose is in this memo and am further inclined to believe there should be other versions and/or memo.